

AteliKai

A Community Reference Grammar of Labrador Inuttitut

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Nunatsiavut



Johns and Nochasak

Newfoundland and Labrador



Nunatsiavut Communities



Johns and Nochasak

Nunatsiavut

- 2,598 Official Labrador Inuit
- Language loss among youth (Andersen and Johns 2005)

Immersion and Core Inuktitut

- Nain: K-3 immersion; K-12 Core Inuktitut
 - Hopedale: K & 1 Immersion; K-12 Core Inuktitut
 - Makkovik: K-12 Core Inuktitut
 - Postville: K-9 Rosetta Stone
 - Rigolet: K-9 Core Inuktitut
 - Inuit Program Specialist: Sarah Townley
 - Curriculum Developer: Sophie Tuglavina
- Inuit Language Teachers
- Nain: 6
 - Hopedale: 6
 - Makkovik: 1
 - Postville: 1
 - Rigolet: 1

Summān?
for the itsik
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tipalik ukiuk
tukaluk

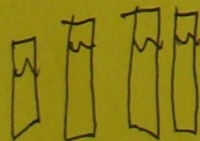
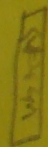
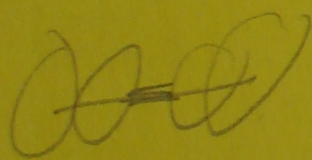
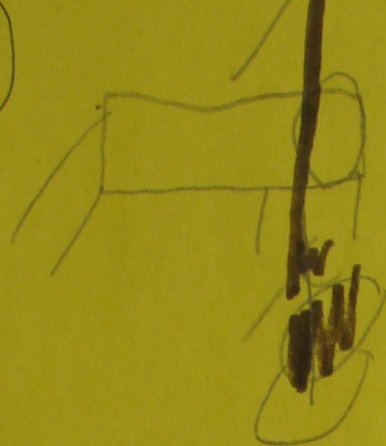
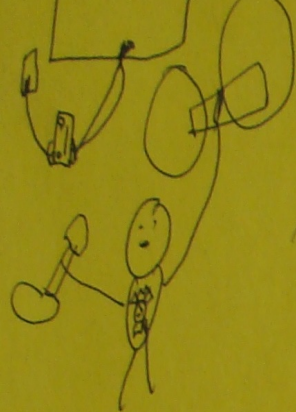


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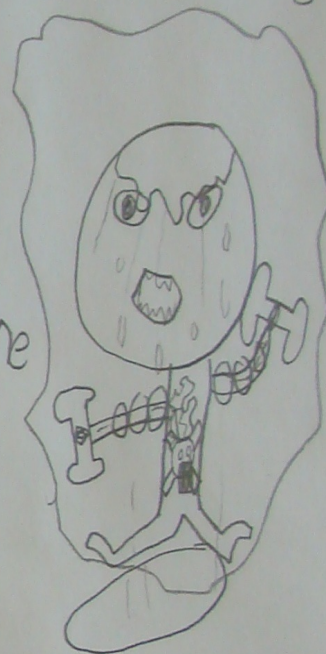
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Anaaga:
Charlene



Ata + aga
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Atiga: Sydney
Inoliffiga: July 27th

Torngâsok Cultural Centre

Nain, October 2007

- Dictionary - Labradorimi Ulinaisigutet (\$30.00)
- Young learner's book: Atuagaga uKausinnut (\$15.00)
- Unikkâlautta - stories from storytelling festival 2006 (\$15.00)
- Rosetta Stone - Inuttitut Level 1 (\$100.00)

Asiujitaillilugit UKausivut

Language Revitalization Plan (in preparation by the Language Strategy Committee, Nunatsiavut) Goal: 2050

Labrador Inuttitut Community Grammar Partners

- Dept. of Linguistics, University of Toronto, Alana Johns.
- Torngâsok Cultural Centre, Nunatsiavut Government, Catharyn Andersen, Director.

Community Participants

Rita Andersen, Torngâsok Cultural
Centre, language support

Katie Winters, Nain Liaison. Transcribing,
consulting, checking

Joan Dicker, Teacher (Nain), Story
Database

Christine Nochasak, Teacher (Makkovik),
grammar issues

Linguistics Graduate Student Participants

- Sarah Clarke, Ph.D. student, web design and postings.
- Richard Compton, Ph.D. student, web design and postings.
- Ewan Dunbar, Story Database

Story Database

Angiggami

Katie Winters (author and reader)
Nain, Labrador June 2007

Press play to listen to this story.



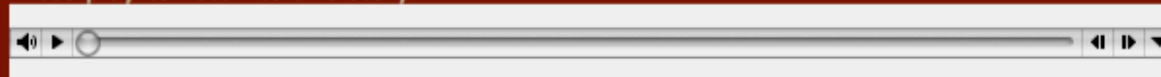
Ai Katie E. Wintersiuvunga	Hi. My name is Katie E. Winters.
Nainimiungutlunga tamâni Nainimi inolilaukKunga.	I am from Nain. I was born here in Nain.
AllagalâniakKunga pitjutigillugu aullaKattanigiKattajavuttinik Tasiujammut.	I'll write a short story about our trips we have up to Tasiujak.
PannailiaKiKattavugut kisiani Kaujimagutta silakKiniammangât.	We start to go off only when we know the weather will be fine.
ammalu kenaujaKatsiatuagutta taKuatsavuttinik ammalu kiasalenitsavuttinik.	and if we have enough money for our grub and gas.
Faraitâgimi aullaluaKattavugut unuttut Inuit avungngaliaKiKattamata.	We usually go on Friday because that is the time a lot of people go north.
SugusikkagumaKattagaluakkunga tâvatuak uKumaitsaniagasugigannuk tigusiKattangilagut.	I like to take the children but when we think we will have a hard time, we don't take them.
Tappâneligatta silakKijâtsiavaKattavugut, pinasuagalatluta aulasagiatlutalu.	When we are up there, we have a really great time; we hunt and fish.

Johns and Nochasak

Angiggami

Katie Winters (author and reader)
Nain, Labrador June 2007

Press play to listen to this story.

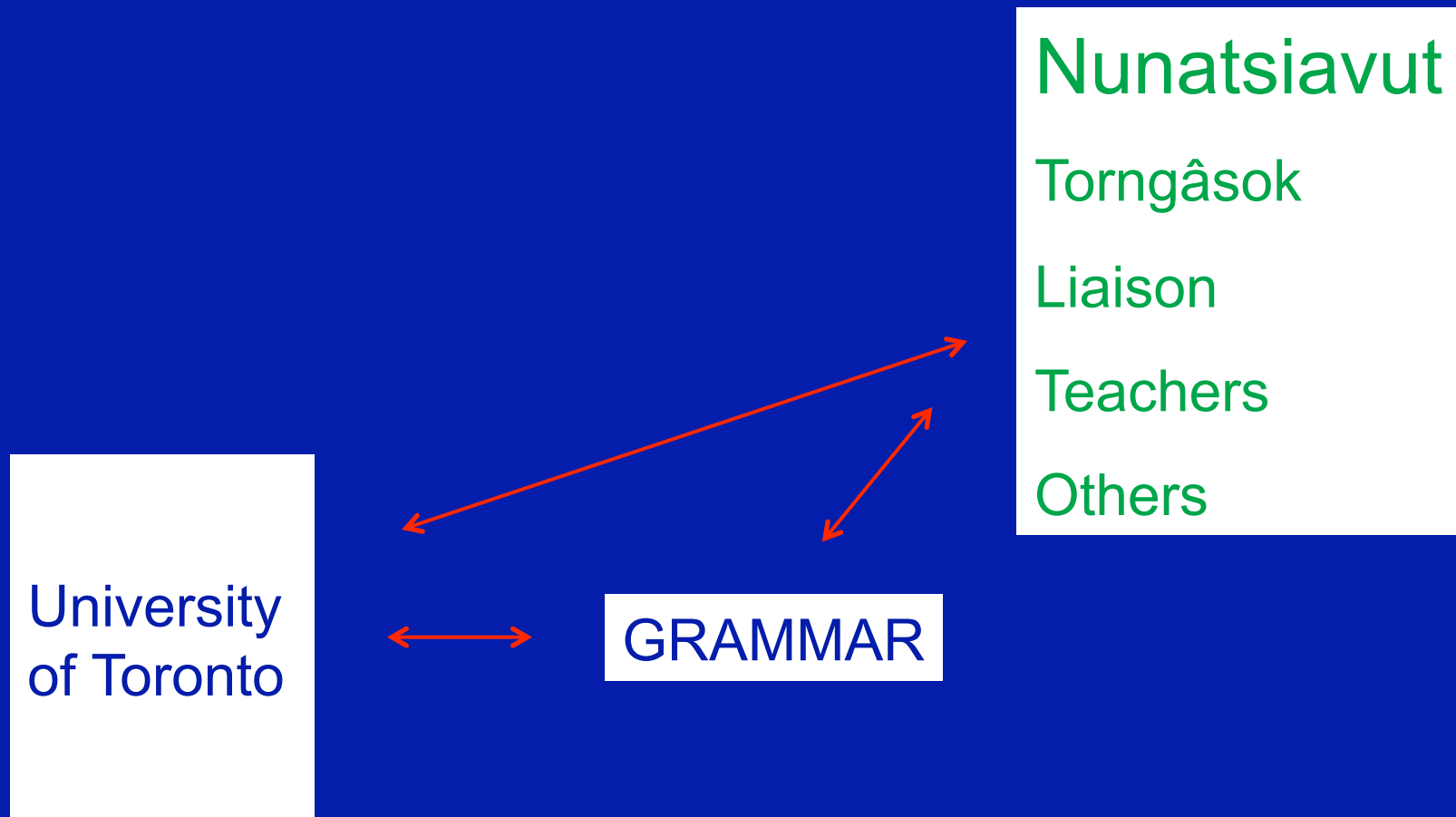


Ai Katie E. Wintersiuvunga	Hi. My name is Katie E. Winters.
Nainimiungutlunga tamâni Nainimi inolilaukKunga.	I am from Nain. I was born here in Nain.
AllagalâniakKunga pitjutigillugu [aulla·Katta·ni(k)·gi·Katta·ja·vuttinik] Tasiujammut.	I'll write a short story about our trips we have up to Tasiujak.
PannamaKiKattavugut kisiani Kaujimagutta silakKiniammangât.	We start to go off only when we know the weather will be fine.
ammalu kenaujaKatsiatuagutta taKuatsavuttinik ammalu kiasalenitsavuttinik.	and if we have enough money for our grub and gas.
Faraitâgimi aullaluaKattavugut unuttut Inuit avungngaliaKiKattamata.	We usually go on Friday because that is the time a lot of people go north.
SugusikkagumaKattagaluakkunga tâvatuak uKumaitسانيagasugigannuk tigusiKattangilagut.	I like to take the children but when we think we will have a hard time, we don't take them.
Tanâsiatigutta silakKiâstianuKattavugut niasuvagilut.	When we are up there we have a really great time we

A Community Grammar?

- Reference grammar - not teaching grammar
- Writing oriented to community language professionals, not just linguists
- Input from community beyond data (questions, readability, etc.)

Model



How come Inuktitut can change their
words around and the sentence doesn't
change meaning?

nukappiak	atâni	sâp
Boy	bottom-its	table's

‘The boy is under the table’

Johns and Nochasak

How come Inuktitut can change their
words around and the sentence doesn't
change meaning?

nukappiak	atâni	sâp
Boy	bottom-its	table's

nukappiak	sâp	atâni
Boy	table's	bottom-its

‘The boy is under the table’

Johns and Nochasak

Word Order

- Word order is fairly free in Inuttitut. This contrasts with English where the word order is fairly fixed. For example, in Inuttitut the following sentence means the same thing, no matter what the order of the words.

- Kauppat silakKipat kisiani
tomorrow if.it.is.nice only
‘only if it is a nice day tomorrow’
- Kauppat kisiani silakKipat
- kisiani Kauppat silakKipat
- kisiani silakKipat Kaupat
- silakKipat kisiani Kauppat
- silakKipat Kauppat kisiani

- Inuttitut words can move around without changing meaning because of they have **endings** which give extra information. English words do not have endings so the words are much more fixed in place. Other languages like Inuttitut, where endings allow the words to move, are Russian and Latin. In languages around the word, it is usually the case that if the language has endings, the word order is more free.

I was teaching the students the endings;
mik and **nik**. I taught them that **mik** = one
thing:

Kimminik takuvunga I see a dog.

Kimminik takuvunga. I see some dogs.

A student asked how come:

takuvunga anânaganik I see my mother
is speaking of only one person? They
asked why isn't it **takuvunga *anânagamik**.

Grammar Piece

takuvunga Kimmimik

'I see a dog.'

takuvunga Kimmenik

'I see 2 dogs.'

takuvunga Kimminik

'I see some dogs.'

This applies to all the case endings starting with **m** (**mut**, **mi**, **mit**)

In contrast, when these cases follow a grammatical element, such as possessive endings, **nik** must be used for the singular.

takuvunga Kimmiganik

'I see my dog.'

Acknowledgements

- Funding from Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) through a Northern Development grant.

- Community Grammar site <<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~inuit/labrador/Labrador/Welcome.html>>
- Toni White, Torngâsok Cultural Centre
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